

Health Occupations Students of America

Memories in the Making

From start to finish, the National HOSA Leadership Conference, which was held last week in Anaheim, Calif., was a memory maker.

But perhaps the best moment of the conference was when Nathan Tapp of Gravette was announced as the bronze-medal winner in the rescue breathing competition.

There were other moments. The Arkansas delegation calling the Hogs while the rest of the crowd sang happy birthday to HOSA, a national student organization celebrating its 30th birthday. Jonathan Bibb, state

HOSA advisor, hoisting the Razorback flag. Pigging out at Joe's Crab Shack. Making new friends and renewing old acquaintances.

But the best moment had to be when the entire audience – 5,500 strong – gave Nathan a standing ovation as a classmate helped him walk to the stage to claim his medal. “The place just erupted,” Jonathan says. “It was great!”

Nathan suffers from Cerebellar Ataxia, which affects his motor skills. Although he has trouble walking, Nathan doesn't let the disease slow him down. Last year he placed in the Top 10 in the rescue breathing competition, and this year he also competed in the HOSA Quiz Bowl.

“Nathan has been a quiet leader for our club over the past three years,” Angela Scott, medical professions instructor at Gravette, says. “He has been a blessing to our entire group, providing a humble leadership that challenges the rest of us to reach for our potential.”

Besides being a personal accomplishment, Nathan's win was a milestone for Arkansas HOSA. “That's the first competitive medal we've won at nationals since I've been here,” Jonathan says.

Although Nathan's was the only medal, the following Arkansas students were finalists (Top 10) in their events: **CPR/First Aid** – Chelsea Weston, Michael Fletcher, Kody O'Neill, and Cameron Crane, all of Gravette High School; **Medical Clinical Assisting** – Brittany Hammers, Gravette High School; **Nursing Assisting** – Laurie Nelson, Rogers High School; **Extemporaneous Speaking** – Hillary Harrington, Gravette High School; **Career Health Display** – Rhonda Smith and Lana Chastain, Quitman High School.

In addition to the competitive awards, several Arkansas chapters were recognized for their accomplishments during the 2005-06 school year. Conway High School, Conway Career Center, Quitman High School, and Tuckerman High School were named as Outstanding HOSA Chapters.

Marion High School and Quitman High School were recognized for their work on the national service project, which raised money for the Alzheimer's Foundation. Besides putting in a lot of community service hours, the Marion chapter raised about \$1,700 and Quitman raised more than \$1,200.

The Quitman Chapter also was recognized for its newsletter and its community service in conjunction with HOSA Week in February. Tuckerman High School received the community service honor too.

Chelsie Cornwell of Tuckerman High School was recognized as the Outstanding HOSA State Officer for Arkansas. And the state HOSA organization, as a whole, earned kudos for increasing its membership from 1,075 to 1,330 over the past year.

